



Virginia Occupational Safety and Health



VOSH PROGRAM DIRECTIVE: 12-248A

ISSUED: April 1, 1995

SUBJECT: Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution and Amendments, §1910.269; and Amendment to Electrical Protective Equipment, §1910.137

A. Purpose.

This directive transmits to field personnel the Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution standard, §1910.269, and the amendment to the Electrical Protective Equipment standard, §1910.137 (now Change I). Also transmitted are two amendments to the Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution standard, §1910.269 (Change II).

This Program Directive is an internal guideline, not a statutory or regulatory rule, and is intended to provide instructions to VOSH personnel regarding internal operation of the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Program and is solely for the benefit of the program. This document is not subject to the Virginia Register Act or the Administrative Process Act; it does not have general application and is not being enforced as having the force of law.

B. Scope.

This directive applies to all VOSH personnel and specifically to Occupational Safety Enforcement and Consultation Services personnel.

C. Action.

The Deputy Commissioner, directors and supervisors shall assure that field personnel and employers understand and comply with the requirements of these standards.

D. Effective Dates.

CHANGE I: The effective date for §§1910.137 and 1910.269 was October 1, 1994, except for the training requirements for §1910.269(a)(2) which became effective on February 1, 1995, and §1910.269(v)(11)(xii), additional requirements and related work practices for power generating plants, which will become effective on February 1, 1996.

CHANGE II: June 1, 1995

E. Expiration Date.

Not Applicable.

F. Background.

CHANGE I: The two major hazards accounting for most of the accidental deaths in electric power transmission and distribution work are falling and electric shock. Employees engaged in the construction of such generation, transmission or distribution systems continue to be protected by Subpart V of the construction industry standards (Part 1926), Power Transmission and Distribution.

On January 31, 1989, when federal OSHA published this final rule (54 Fed. Reg. 4974), application was limited to installations under the exclusive control of electric utilities.

Although employees performing operation or maintenance work on electric power generation, transmission, or distribution installations face far greater electrical hazards than those faced by other workers, these employees were not adequately protected by current VOSH standards. The voltages involved are generally much higher than voltages encountered in other types of work and a large part of electrical power generation, transmission and distribution work exposes employees to energized parts of the power system.

The existing electrical regulations, contained in Subpart S of the General Industry Standards, address electric utilization systems--installations of electric conductors and equipment which use electric energy for mechanical, chemical, heating, lighting, or similar purposes. Subpart S protects most employees from the hazards associated with electric utilization equipment and with premises wiring that supplies this equipment. It does not, however, contain requirements protecting employees from the hazards arising out of the operation or maintenance of electric power generation, transmission, or distribution installations.

The performance-oriented changes to §1910.137, Electrical Protective Equipment, reflect federal OSHA's desire to maintain consistency with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) national consensus standards while clarifying their application to workplaces. Section 1910.137 contains the basic requirements for the safe design, manufacture, and testing of electrical protective equipment.

During its meeting on July 19, 1994, the Safety and Health Codes Board adopted this federal-identical standard, §1910.269, and the amendment to §1910.137, with an effective date of October 1, 1994, except as otherwise noted.

CHANGE II: On August 9, 1994, federal OSHA published the Safety Standards for Fall Protection in the Construction Industry which revised virtually all of the fall protection provisions of the construction industry standards and consolidated those requirements in subpart M, Fall Protection, Construction Industry, §§1926.500 through 1926.503, except where specifically provided otherwise. Revision of the fall protection standard necessitated a change to §1910.269(g)(2) by requiring that personal fall arrest equipment meet the requirements of subpart M of Part 1926.

Additionally, on October 12, 1994, federal OSHA revised the existing pulpwood logging standard, §1910.266 (59 Fed. Reg. 51672). The revised logging standard expanded the coverage of the old pulpwood logging standard to include all logging operations. As such, §1910.269(r)(5) of the Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution standard needed to be revised to provide for the safe use of hand and portable powered tools, including chain saws.

On December 19, 1994, the Safety and Health Codes Board adopted two amendments to the Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution standard, with an effective date of June 1, 1995.

G. Summary.

CHANGE I: Section 1910.269 addresses the work practices to be used during the operation and maintenance of electric power generation, transmission, and distribution facilities. This standard primarily covers the following types of work operations: inspection, substation and generating plant switching (connection and disconnection of facilities), maintenance of lines and equipment, line clearance tree trimming, testing and fault locating, streetlight relamping, chemical cleaning of boilers, and other operation and maintenance activities such as requirements relating to enclosed spaces, hazardous energy control, working near energized parts, grounding for employee protection, and work on underground and overhead installations.

Corrections were also made to several provisions in §1910.269 which contained minor typographical or grammatical errors.

As a result of the settlement agreement between federal OSHA and Edison Electric Institute (et al.) on March 28, 1994, the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit stayed enforcement of paragraph (v)(11)(xii) of §1910.269 to February 1, 1996 (in Virginia). (See the attached implementation schedule)

CHANGE II: Paragraph (g)(2) of the Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution standard, §1910.269, was amended to require that personal fall arrest equipment meet the requirements of the revised construction industry Fall Protection standard, subpart M of Part 1926 (§§1926.500 - 1926.503), rather than the previously referenced subpart E.

Paragraph (r)(5) of the Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution standard, §1910.269, has been revised so that gasoline-engine power saw operations will meet the requirements of paragraph (e) of the revised standard on Logging Operations, General Industry, §1910.266, instead of the requirements of §1910.266 (c)(5) of the former Pulpwood Logging standard.

The effective date for §1910.269(g)(2) and for §1910.269(r)(5) is June 1, 1995.

Theron J. Bell
Commissioner

Attachments: CHANGE I: 59 Fed. Reg. 4321 (January 31, 1994); and
59 Fed. Reg. 33658 (June 30, 1994)
http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=13391&p_text_version=FALSE

CHANGE II: 59 Fed. Reg. 40672 (August 9, 1994);
http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=13403&p_text_version=FALSE

59 Fed. Reg. 51672 (October 12, 1994)
http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=13420&p_text_version=FALSE

Distribution: Commissioner of Labor and Industry
Deputy Commissioner
Directors and Supervisors
Consultation Services Staff
Training Staff
OSHA Regional Administrator, Region III

Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution and Amendments,
§1910.269; and

Amendment to Electrical Protective Equipment, §1910.137

As Adopted by the
Safety and Health Codes Board

Dates: July 19, 1994



VIRGINIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Effective Date: October 1, 1994

Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution, §1910.269
VR 425-02-97

Amendment to Electrical Protective Equipment, §1910.137
VR 425-02-151

When the regulations, as set forth in the General Industry Standard for Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution, and its amendments, §1910.269; and the Amendment to Electrical Protective Equipment, §1910.137, are applied to the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry and/or to Virginia employers, the following federal terms shall be considered to read as below:

Federal Terms

VOSH Equivalent

29 CFR	VOSH Standard
Assistant Secretary	Commissioner of Labor and Industry
Agency	Department
January 31, 1994	October 1, 1994
June 30, 1994	October 1, 1994
February 6, 1995	June 1, 1995
February 9, 1995	June 1, 1995

Implementation Schedule

Standard

Virginia Effective Date

CHANGE I:

§1910.269 except for §1910.269(a)(2)	October 1, 1994
§1910.137	October 1, 1994
§1910.269(v)(11)(xii)	February 1, 1996
For the following sections:	February 1, 1995
§1910.269 (a)(2)	
§1910.269(b)(1)(ii)	
§1910.269(d) except for (d)(2)(i) and (iii)	
§1910.269 (e)(2) and (3)	
§1910.269(j)(2)(iii)	
§1910.269(l)(6)(iii)	
§1910.269(m)	
§1910.269(n)(3), (n)(4)(ii), and (n)(8)	

§1910.269(n)(6) and (7) insofar as
they apply to lines and equipment
operated at 600 volts or less

§1910.269(o) except for (o)(2)(1)

§1910.269(r)(1)(vi)

§1910.269(u)(1), (4) and (5)

**Amendments to Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution,
§1910.269**

As Adopted by the
Safety and Health Codes Board

Dates: December 19, 1994



VIRGINIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Effective Date: June 1, 1995

Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution, §1910.269
VR 425-02-97

When the regulations, as set forth in the General Industry Standard for Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution, and its amendments, §1910.269, are applied to the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry and/or to Virginia employers, the following federal terms shall be considered to read as below:

Federal Terms

VOSH Equivalent

29 CFR

VOSH Standard

Assistant Secretary

Commissioner of Labor and Industry

Agency

Department

February 6, 1995

June 1, 1995

February 9, 1995

June 1, 1995